

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : CASE NO. 5:07 CR 00563

Plaintiff :
-vs-
ERVIN THOMAS, et al.,
Defendants :
ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS'
SEVERAL SEPARATE MOTIONS TO
CONTINUE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE LESLEY WELLS

On 7 November 2007, the government unsealed a nineteen Count Indictment against thirteen defendants, accused of possessing and conspiring to possess and distribute cocaine in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), 846, as well as 18 U.S.C. §§ 1952 & 1952. (Docket No. 1). The final pre-trial conference in this matter is set for Monday 3 February 2008 at 3:30 p.m., while the trial is set for Monday 10 March 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

The following defendants have moved this Court to continue the pre-trial and trial dates: Ervic Thomas (1), Eddie Grant (2), Terrance Thomas (3), Leroy Grant (5), Mark Jones (6), Meles Hailu Mezgebo (7), Veronica Guzman-Tellez (8), Gabriela Sarahy-Guzman (9), and Leandre Lewis (12). (Respectively Docs. 125, 130, 126, 132, 123, 129, 131, 124, 128, 134).

The defendants have moved to continue the final pretrial and trial pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3161. Defense counsel request additional time as necessary to accommodate conflicting trial schedules, travel plans, and extended plea negotiations with the government. The government has indicated it does not oppose the motion.

The Court concludes that the ends of justice served by granting a continuance outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendants in a speedy trial. Failure to grant a continuance would deny defense counsel in this case the reasonable time necessary to ensure their adequate preparation for either the pretrial proceedings or the trial itself. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(8)(A) & (B)(iv).

Therefore, the final pretrial conference and trial of this matter shall be continued as to all named defendants. The dates for the trial, the final pretrial conference, and all related deadlines will be set forth in a separate order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/Lesley Wells
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE